



Antique Fly-In a Huge Success

The Montana Antique Airplane Association gathered in Three Forks for their annual fly-in August 5-7, 2004. This year was another success with more than 150 planes attending including pilots flying in from all over Montana, Canada, Utah, Wyoming, North Dakota and the list goes on and on. As many as 3,000 people wandered in throughout the weekend and were able to get a close up look at some beautiful aircraft.

The event kicked off on Thursday with Young Eagle rides given to more than 50 children. On Thursday evening a potluck Mexican feast was held with Bud Hall cooking up his delicious tacos and as always enough food to feed an army. Friday more aircraft arrived to partake in the festivities that included a golf scramble, safety seminars and aerobatic routines. The Headwaters Café served a delicious prime rib dinner that evening and musician Paul Ray entertained everyone as they relaxed and visited with friends, old & new. Saturday morning the popular Wilsall breakfast was held with Steve & Cindy Keimer and friends offering a fantastic breakfast for all. The Spot Landing & Flour Bombings were held that afternoon followed by an awards ceremony.

This year in association with the antique fly-in the Federal Aviation Administrations Helena Flight Standards District Office honored a couple of local aviators. Robert LeSuer of Ennis, became the first Montana aviator to receive the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" award. The "Master Pilot" award recognizes pilots who have 50 or more consecutive years of civil aviation experience. Through practicing and promoting safe flight Mr. LeSuer has contributed to building and maintaining the safest aviation system in the world. Mr. LeSuer began his flying in 1940 and remains active in aviation and is a member of the Madison County Airport Board. Mr. LeSuer received a certificate signed by FAA Administrator Blakey and his name will be added to a "Roll of Honor" book that is kept at the FAA Washington D.C. headquarters building.

Arlin Wass, Belgrade, received the Charles Taylor "Master Mechanic" award. The "Master Mechanic" award is named after the Wright Brothers mechanic Charles E. Taylor, the first aviation mechanic. The Charles Taylor award recognizes those aviation mechanics that have been in aviation maintenance for 50 or more years. Mr. Wass began his aviation maintenance career in 1954 by attending the School of Aeronautics in Helena. Mr. Wass remains active in aviation maintenance and is the owner of Arlin's Aircraft Service at Gallatin Field. Mr. Wass received a certificate signed by FAA Administrator Blakey and his name will be added to a "Roll of Honor" book at the FAA Washington D.C. headquarters building. Both of these gentlemen are well deserving of these awards and are true aviation pioneers. Through their professionalism, skill and aviation expertise, they paved the way for others to follow. Congratulations to them both.

Also a big congratulations to the Montana Antique Airplane Association for putting on another successful fly in, it takes a lot of hard work and dedication to organize an event of this size and your group certainly adds a special touch of class.



Steve Jones, FAA presents Arlin Wass the "Master Mechanic" award.



Administrator's Column

Aviation Community Suffers Tremendous Loss: It is with much regret that I offer condolences to five Montana families who lost family members as a result of three separate aircraft accidents that occurred in the past few weeks. Larry Steven Baier and Scott G. Kiral both of Kalispell were involved in an accident on August 18. Larry was a longtime flight instructor and employed as a captain for Alpine Aviation and Scott a licensed pilot and accomplished computer and network technician. On the same day, Montana lost Gerard Christian "Jerry" Lund of Miles City in an aircraft accident. A lifetime farmer, Jerry loved a good rain and to fly his plane. On August 29, Stephen Allen "Steve" Schuldheiss and Ray Zinke of Kalispell lost their lives in an accident. Steve enjoyed flying, loved to sing and was blessed with a wonderful voice and passion for country music. Ray was an avid horseman with a strong work ethic and his recent passion was restoring and flying his Beechcraft Bonanza. On behalf of the entire Montana aviation community, sincere condolences to all of the family and friends of Larry, Scott, Jerry, Steve and Ray.

Montana Air Service Opportunities and Challenges: The Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Department of Commerce are currently advertising a request for proposal to conduct research and report on the status and assessment of air service in the state of Montana. A technical panel was formed and meetings held to determine the scope of the project. Proposals are due by September 24 with hopes to have a contract awarded by early December. This project is being fund through the Department of Transportation's research unit with full support from MDT Director Dave Galt and DOC Director Mark Simonich. This is a very exciting, long overdue project for the state that will benefit not only the aviation industry, but the travel/tourism industry, local/state government, economic development offices, and many others. To review the RFP and learn more about the extent of the research check out: www.state.mt.us/doa click on the state bid and proposal link and choose the Department of Transportation.

Butte Airport Receives Funds: The Department of Transportation has awarded \$360,000 to Butte under the Small Community Air Service Development Program. These grants help small communities address air service problems associated with insufficient service and high fares. Since September 11, three factors have contributed to a drop in enplanements of over 25% at Butte. Delta's marketing of the Butte airport, the economic woes of Butte and the after affects of the terrorist events. This grant will attempt to solve these problems through airline negotiations and marketing of both the air service and the airport. The monies also pay for a leakage study which will show if travelers are using other airports for there travel needs other than Butte and if so, why. By understanding the market and its issues marketing dollars can be better utilized at the airport. Cut Bank is the only other Montana community to receive funds under this program. The community currently has a request for proposal awarded to a consultant who is conducting a feasibility study for Cut Bank.

Helena Airport Chosen for TSA program: The Helena Regional Airport has been selected to participate in the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Access Control Pilot Program. Helena is one of 10 sites that have been selected for the program. The pilot program will test Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, anti-piggybacking technology (designed to bar unqualified individuals from following authorized personnel into secure areas), advanced video surveillance technology and various biometric technologies. With this test, TSA will be able to analyze and evaluate new technologies designed to ensure that only authorized personnel have access to non-passenger controlled areas. At Helena, a vehicle tracking system using voice recognition, an optical character reader and video analysis technology to track a vehicle's authorized path in the secure area will be tested. This is great news, to put Montana on the map as a leader in technology and have a site in our state chosen in the select few.

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Montana and the Sky

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Administrator's Column continued....

Donation Received: As part of the third annual Montana Fun Weekend held in Cut Bank last month, a special presentation was made to recognize the three Aeronautics Division search and rescue districts (Cut Bank, Havre and Glasgow) that assisted in the January search for Cut Bank resident Bill Newman, his sons Ray and Lance and Ray's fiancée. Debbie (Mrs. Bill) Newman graciously purchased new direction finding equipment that she is donating to the Aeronautics Division to aid the search and rescue program. The equipment will be placed in each of the three districts that were recognized, with their current (older) equipment being placed at a different location of their choosing in their respective districts. A plaque recognizing this generosity will be displayed in each of the district airports. On hand to be acknowledged for their efforts and receive the donation were Henry Alme, Assistant Coordinate, Cut Bank; Tim Dwyer, District Coordinator, Havre and Lanny Hanson, District Coordinator, Glasgow. Thanks so much to Debbie Newman and her family for this donation and kindness in recognizing and rewarding the agencies that assisted. To the district coordinators and all air search volunteers many thanks for all you do for aviators and their families.

Calendar

September 11, 2004 – Wings of Freedom, Sidney Air Show. Ticket prices are pre-sale: adults-\$12, students (ages 5-14) \$8. At the gate prices are: adults-\$15, students-\$10. Pre-school children are free. Concessions on the ground, bring your own lawn chair for seating. Call Sharon Rau at the Chamber to purchase tickets (406) 433-1916 or Bryan Prevost (406) 774-3033 for further information.

September 11, 2004 – Dillon Airport Day. Sponsored by Southwest Montana Pilots Association; breakfast, lunch, airplane rides, bowling, flour bombing, spot landing. For further information contact Dillon Flying Service, (406) 683-5242.

September 17-19, 2004 – Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell. For further information phone (406) 444-2506 or email jemacpherson@state.mt.us.

September 23 & 24, 2004 – Montana Aeronautics Division board meeting, Helena. For further information phone (406) 444-2506.

September 25, 2004 - Columbus Fly-In. For further information phone (406) 328-4375.

Big Sky Continues to Offer Reduced Fares

Due to the popular response received from the “fair” fares for the cities in central and eastern Montana, Big Sky Airlines is pleased to announce that those reduced fares will continue indefinitely.

In addition, Big Sky Airlines has modified and simplified the fare structure for these cities to two fares.

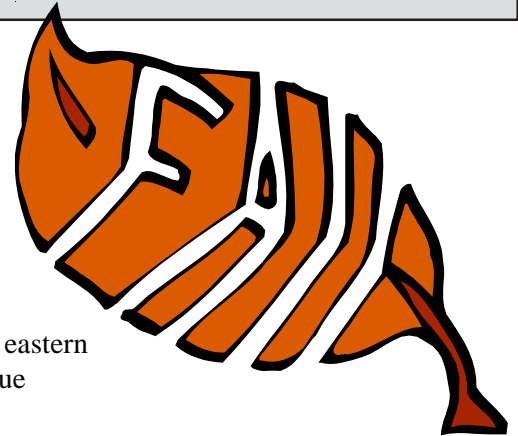
- Y9GQ: A non-refundable fare as set forth below.
- Y9: A refundable fare that is \$20 higher than Y9GQ fares.

The Y9GQ fares for the cities of Glendive, Lewistown, Havre, Glasgow, Wolf Point, Sidney and Miles City are:

Glendive to Billings	\$45 (one way) plus taxes
Lewistown to Billings	\$30 (one way) plus taxes
Havre to Billings	\$45 (one way) plus taxes
Glasgow to Billings	\$65 (one way) plus taxes
Wolf Point to Billings	\$65 (one way) plus taxes
Sidney to Billings	\$55 (one way) plus taxes
Miles City to Billings	\$30 (one way) plus taxes

Not only is the fare economical but the time spent traveling is minimal. For example, travel time between Miles City and Billings is a brief 45 minutes in the air versus three hours travel in a bus. Big Sky Airlines gets you to and from all the above cities quickly and economically.

Big Sky Airlines serves 19 cities in Montana, North Dakota, Washington, and Idaho. All flights operated by Big Sky are with 19 seat Fairchild Metro III and 23 aircraft. Big Sky is based in Billings, MT and commenced service in 1978.



More MAAA Fly-in Fun!



Robert LeSuer of Ennis was honored to receive the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" award from Steve Jones, FAA.



Paul Mousseau of the Helena Control Tower takes a quick break from all the action. Thanks to the FAA for the use of the portable tower and all of the Helena controllers that volunteered their time for this event.



Red of North Dakota worked the entire fly-in driving the refreshment truck and was thankful when Debbie offered to help out.



The ever so cheerful Darlene & Ray Sanders of Kalispell enjoyed the fun festivities.



Gorvan & Dorothy LeDuc of Laurel brought their grandson along to enjoy the fly-in and as always were on hand to help out with anything and everything.



Hank Galpin's 1928 Travel Air 6000 was one of the big attractions of the fly-in. Lots of lucky participants were able to take a flight with Hank in the only flyable plane of it's kind.



Pete Sanders of Helena accepts the "Oldest Pilot" award from Zola Hamm & Budd Hall. Pete who turned 80 this year is a great example of what good clean living will do for a person, congratulations Pete, well deserved!!



Garfield Jermunson of Brady was honored to take a flight in Jim Bastiani's L-39, we still haven't talked to Garfield to hear how his flight went but have a feeling it's something he'll never forget.



Lanny Hanson piloted the tractor that offered hayrides to anyone wanting to check out all of the aircraft and save themselves a walk in the hot sun.



Mike Mulroney, Helena; Cindy Kleimer, Bozeman (MAAA Secretary); Lanny Hanson, Glasgow, Patty Kautz, Helena & Mike Ferguson, Townsend take a few moments to kick back and enjoy.



Mary Morris, Captain for US Airways was the lucky winner of the beautiful art work donated by Toni Heckel of Kalispell. Mary had commented earlier that she was going to be the winner of the painting so it shows you what positive thinking will do.



Young Eagles line up for their "first flight".

Aviation Career Camp

Montana Aeronautics Division with the FAA and Helena College of Technology sponsored a four-day aviation career camp for high school students interested in aviation August 18- 21. Students came to Helena from Harlem, Great Falls, Chester, Browning, Simms, Manhattan and Belgrade. Thank you to all the great aviation professionals that participated and shared their aviation passion with the students. A huge thank you to Bill and Barbara Burkland for being the host family to the out of town students.



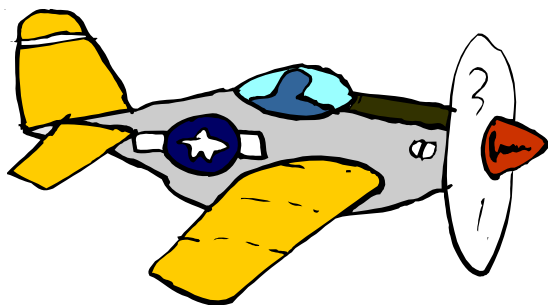
ACE Students experienced introduction flights in a RV6 piloted by Clayton Wilhelm, a Cessna T41 piloted by Mike Rogan and a Bonanza piloted by Jeanne MacPherson.



Kevin Bagley, Helena and Mathew Lindberg, Simms look into the cockpit of an F16 and Jamie Fox of Harlem checks out the underside of the F-16.



Pilot, Doctor, Bill Gallea and son, Jim Gallea, also a pilot and premedical student share backcountry medicine skills with the students at Stemple Pass on survival day.



Brian Aasen from Helena, Ben Staal from Manhattan and Marcus Kunda from Belgrade are ready to go in the Bonanza.



F16 Pilot Scott Smith from the 120th Fighter Unit in Great Falls, talked to the students about the greatness of flying the F16 in the Montana Air National Guard.



Seaplanes make a Splash at Riverfest '04

The Montana Seaplane Pilots Association received an invitation from Great Falls to attend the 1st annual Riverfest on July 16 & 17 for the celebration of the riverfront improvements in the downtown area long the Missouri. Hank & Helga Sallmon, Scott Russell, Larry & Dorothy Ashcraft and Bob & Joanne Kembel loaded up their seaplanes and flew over to Great Falls and had a wonderful time. The community was very gracious and thrilled they were there. The planes flew the river and conducted take-off and landing demonstrations. Several of the city dignitaries were given rides in spite of the 98-degree day. All of the pilots that attended came away with a strong feeling that they had just boosted up the attitude of seaplanes and flying in general. Coordinators hope this will become an annual event and the Seaplane Pilots Association will be able to attend to make another big SPLASH!!



Free Online Course on METAR's & TAF's

Aviation Tutorials Company, LLC has created a FREE online course on METAR's and TAF's. Nearly 2 hours of online, interactive training is provided, and is available to anyone who visits Aviation Tutorials' website. Users can find the link to the tutorial at www.avtutorials.com at the bottom of the main page.

This tutorial on METAR's and TAF's is unlike any other such training. It not only teaches the most basic aspects of METAR's and TAF's, but also provides training on components that most pilots are unaware of. Still, learning is made easy and fun, through full voice narration and easy-to-use controls.

Where this tutorial truly shines is the way it promotes learning through human interaction-not just rote memorization. A remarkable feature is the interactive weather controls, which enable the user to "control the weather." For example, the user can specify wind speed, gust factor, direction, and other variables, and can then view how the weather statement displays this information. Since weather codes are confusing to interpret, the user can click the "Speak-It" button to hear a verbal translation. This allows the user to correlate codes with a true, visual picture and understanding of the weather.

Users must have an Internet connection, and registration is required to log-in. Simply visit www.avtutorials.com, and find the link at the bottom of the main page.

This online course on METAR's and TAF's is made available for FREE, with no obligation, and is perfect for all pilots, from students to rated pilots who wish to remain sharp and proficient. It's also ideal for airport personnel, dispatchers, and anyone else who need to view aviation weather information.

This training provides the same superb quality as other Aviation Tutorials products, such as The Navigation CD-ROM, VOR/NDB Simulator, and Getting Around On The Ground. Aviation Tutorials, in business since 1995, invites inquiries about its aviation training products. Additional information is available at www.avtutorials.com or you may call (414) 761-9331.

Notice to Pilots

The new turf runway at Gallatin Field is now open. The runway is 3,200 feet long and 80 feet wide. It is designated Turf Runway 11/29. The runway is marked with white plastic cones. The traffic pattern for Turf Runway 11 will be left hand and the traffic pattern for Turf Runway 29 will be right hand. The runway is far enough away from the main runway 12/30 that simultaneous operations may be conducted on both runways. Turf taxiways connect to paved Runway 12/30 across from Taxiways C and E. The east end of the turf runway may also be accessed from the north end of Runway 03/21.

Seeley Lake Fly-In



This young man traveled all the way from Houston, Texas to attend the Staggerwing Fly-In at Seeley Lake Airport on August 8, not only was he able to see some really cool airplanes he also got to enjoy a pancake breakfast hosted by the Seeley Lake Flying Club.

Soaring in Montana

By: Butch Pannage, Soaring Society of America



Recently, local soaring enthusiasts Sterling Starr (past president of the Soaring Society of America) and Butch Pannage (SSA state governor) were asked to give a presentation to the local Montana Pilots Association at an evening meeting at Laurel airport. The informative briefing was well received and prompted me to offer this article to "Montana and the Sky" to inform the rest of the state that soaring is active and available in Montana.

There are three glider clubs in the state, two in Hamilton and one in Kalispell which are member clubs but offer rides to nonmembers with prior arrangements. A commercial operation in Bozeman offers rides and instruction. Contact information is available on the web at www.SSA.org. Click on 'The Sport' and then 'Where to fly?' and follow the prompts to Montana. For pilots who own their own sailplane, aerotows are available at Rickman Aircraft in Columbus.

The world soaring community has devised several methods to keep up the interest of the enthusiast. There are regional, national, and world soaring competitions for the more advanced pilot. Earning soaring badges for different levels of proficiency is available from the beginner to advanced pilot. And finally, state, national, and world records can be earned for those interested in cross-country soaring.

SSA would like to recognize and congratulate the following for their record setting performance in Montana during 2004:

Don Profota of Bozeman -Free Straight Distance of 111.60 miles; 3 Turnpoint Free Distance of 243.86 miles;

Triangle Speed 100 Kilometers of 45.03 mph.

Sterling Starr of Billings -Pre-Declared Triangle Distance of 226.78 miles; Triangle Speed 300 Kilometers of 52.17 mph.

For information about any aspect of soaring please contact Butch Pannage at e-mail bpannage@aol.com.

MDT attempts to provide accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request. For further information call (406) 444-6331 or TTY (406) 444-7696.

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